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May 9, 2012

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002


Dear Governor Gregoire:

For the past twenty-one years I have enjoyed a satisfying career at the OMWBE. As you know, the agency has not been without its struggles, and those struggles pre-date my time as director. In my time as Acting Director and then as Director we have made several strides in the agency, including increasing the number of minority and women businesses in OMWBE's database for public agencies and the private sector to solicit; creating a Directory of Firms specifically for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises; increasing both the number and expenditures by state agencies with minority and women businesses for two years in a row; adopting new forms, templates and procedures to ensure that certification determinations are issued more timely and with greater accuracy; and acknowledging OMWBE's Inaugural Supplier Diversity Champions for their achievements.

While this work is commendable, there is much work within OMWBE that remains to be done and investments that must be made to continue to place the agency on a solid and sustainable path. Now is the time to pass the reins to a new leader who can continue to turnaround the agency.

Therefore I am submitting my resignation effective June 1, 2012. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve and am looking forward to assisting with the transition of my successor.

Sincerely,


Cathy V. Canorro